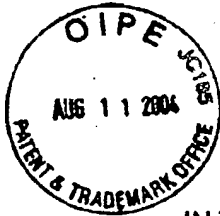


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OFFICE OF PETITIONS

PATENT
Customer No. 22,852
Attorney Docket No. 06502.0323-00

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)
Thomas V. JOHNSON et al.) Group Art Unit: 2171
Application No.: 09/895,077) Examiner: E. LeRoux
Filed: July 2, 2001)
For: METHODS AND SYSTEM FOR EFFICIENT)
ASSOCIATION TRAVERSALS)

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Attention: Ms. Margaret A. Focarino
Director, Technology Center 2170

Madam:

**PETITION UNDER 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.144 AND 1.181
FOR WITHDRAWAL OF RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT**

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.144 and 37 C.F.R. § 1.181, Applicants respectfully petition the Director to reconsider and reverse the Examiner's final decision to withdraw claims 6-56 from consideration in the above-identified application pursuant to the Requirement for Restriction and Election of Species (Requirement) dated October 31, 2003.

I. BACKGROUND

On October 7, 2003, the Examiner telephoned Applicants' representative to request an oral response to a restriction requirement. When asked, the Examiner did not and could not present any basis for the proposed restriction. In fact, the Examiner